

REMARKS

Claims 19-41 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group 1, claims 19-21, drawn to a process for treating carbon; and

Group II, claims 22-41, drawn to a furnace.


**For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group 1, Claims 19-21.**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Charles Gorenstein, Registration No. 29,271 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 13, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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